

# Two booked as Wycombe leave it so late

By MICHAEL KNOX : Wycombe 1, Dulwich 0

SPECTATORS who left early, disappointed by the complete lack of action, would have missed Terry Scott's last minute winner against Dulwich Hamlet at Loakes Park on Saturday.

The goal which moved Wycombe to within six points of Isthmian Premier Division leaders Enfield, came right at the end of a game dominated by two strong defences.

Goal chances were at a premium, so it came as a surprise when Scott popped up to score the winner.

It all started with goalkeeper John Maskell, who threw a quick clearance out to Howard Kennedy on the right. Kennedy sent Steve Long away up the touch-line before Long passed inside to Stewart Atkins.

## Bookings

Atkins, who has recovered his searing pace after that prolonged hamstring injury, darted into the penalty area and crossed low across the face of the goal to Scott who had the simple task of scoring from five yards out.

So often this season have Wanderers conceded late

goals to drop points, that it came as something of a bonus and a surprise that they should nick this game in the dying seconds. There's no doubt that they deserved to, although for long periods the young Dulwich side had them struggling.

However, there was a blacker side to the match. Wycombe had two players booked — something that has not happened for ages. Blues' league tally now rises to an unwelcome six cautions, the highest they have recorded since the start of sponsored football.

Both came following fouls on the Dulwich's star forward Ossie Bayram, whose theatrical reaction to the offences, no doubt led to the referee's strict action.

The first caution came on the half-hour when Keith Mead pulled Bayram back by the shirt as he sped towards goal. This was a so-called 'professional' foul by Mead, whose original mistake put Bayram in his threatening position, from which he could well have scored.

Throughout the first half and much of the second Bayram was having a run-

ing battle with his main marker Steve Hardwick, playing at right back. Just before half-time Hardwick was lectured strongly after Bayram had gone down injured, and it was even money that one or either of them would be booked before the end of the game.

The incident which led to Hardwick's caution came in the 58th minute, when the Wycombe defender undoubtedly fouled Bayram, but the Dulwich player's 'dive' made the tackle look much worse than it really was. Mr Ward should in my opinion have booked both of them.

## Unaccustomed

I thought the Wycombe management erred by placing Paul Birdseye the better right back into mid-field and moving Hardwick, who performed creditably in the middle against Blyth, to right back.

Birdseye did not look at all at ease in this unaccustomed position and I am sure would have been better equipped to deal with the Bayram threat.

Wycombe, who forced

nine corners to their opponents none, should have taken the lead after six minutes when a great flick by Scott put Mick Holifield in the clear, but he fired wide of the target from close range.

Time and again The Blues forwards were thwarted by an astute off-side trap and by the excellent work of the tall Peter Edwards, who enjoyed a fine game at the heart of the Dulwich defence.

But despite failing to force a corner, Dulwich went close three times in the first half but Tony James, Edwards and Peter Kingston shot wide from close range.

Wycombe's defence tightened up considerably in the second half when neither side looked like scoring and the match was dying a slow death when Scott popped up to send the fans home happy.

**WYCOMBE:** J. Maskell, S. Hardwick, R. Davies, K. Mead, A. Phillips, P. Birdseye, S. Atkins, M. Holifield, S. Long, H. Kennedy, T. Scott. Sub: L. Reed (not used).

**DULWICH:** T. Davies, S. Rogers, R. Brookes, P. Edwards, G. Borg, P. Kingston, C. Lewington, M. Lewis, K. Connett, T. James, O. Bayram. Sub: M. Davies.

**Referee:** A. W. Ward (New Southgate).

**Half-time** 0-0. **Scorer** — Wycombe: Scott (90).



A Dulwich defender clears the danger as Wycombe press forward during the second half of Saturday's Berger Isthmian League match at Loakes Park.